

Edgar Paul Lemmon for his heroic actions during World War II in the Pacific theater.

Mr. Lemmon courageously answered the call to serve and defend his country at the age of 17. He was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he suffered while his ship was sweeping the beachhead for mines to clear the way for the Marines on Iwo Jima. Mr. Lemmon and his five other brothers all served in the Armed Services. Two of his brothers were killed in action.

We thank Mr. Lemmon—as well as his entire family—for their bravery and sacrifice to our great nation.

**HONORING WHITTIER POLICE  
OFFICER KEITH BOYER**

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor fallen Whittier Police Officer Keith Boyer. He was killed in the line of duty on February 20, 2017, and his funeral was March 3, 2017.

Officer Boyer is the 5th law enforcement officer to be killed and the first officer fatality from the State of California in 2017. He was born Nov. 27, 1963, in San Gabriel. He graduated from La Serna High School in 1981, and earned a dispatcher course certificate from Golden West College in 1989. He grew up in his hometown of Whittier, where he would serve his community for 25 years.

As was pointed out in the Whittier Daily News, he 'loved his job' because it gave him the opportunity to help people. Officer Boyer received several commendations from the Department for his work, including the Chaplain's Award for his handling of a child abuse call in 2016. He served on Whittier's Crime Impact Team, the SWAT team, as a traffic officer, a school resource officer at La Serna High School, and as a K-9 handler.

Last year was the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. Today, the Memorial bears the names of over 20,000 federal, state, and local officers who have fallen while serving their communities. This year, Officer Boyer will be added to that wall.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Boyer for his dedicated service and for making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in extending my sympathies to his family during this difficult time.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, and 202. Had I been present, I would have voted nay each of these votes.

JENNIFER KRNETA

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Jennifer Krneta from Belleville, IL. Jennifer is a Case Worker with Caritas Family Solutions, a foster care organization, in Belleville.

Jennifer has served as an exemplary Case Worker in Belleville for several years. Her actions came to the attention of our office thanks to a letter written by A1C Dakota Greenwood, a current member of the United States Air Force who is serving at Osan Air Force Base. In this letter, Dakota captured the tremendous impact that Jennifer has had on Dakota's life and upbringing.

After the tragic death of Dakota's mother at the hands of a drunk driver, Dakota grew up in foster care and transitioned between living with several extended relatives, group homes, and foster families. Throughout childhood, Dakota faced poverty, hunger, neglect, and abuse. Through all of these adversities, Dakota credits Jennifer as the only person who showed devotion to improving Dakota's life. Dakota believes that without Jennifer's positive influence, Dakota would not be alive today.

In addition, Jennifer played an essential role in helping Dakota to enlist in the Air Force. It was Jennifer who cared enough to ask about Dakota's life goals and interests. It was Jennifer who helped Dakota identify that service in the U.S. Air Force matched those goals and interests. And it was Jennifer who ensured that Dakota was prepared to meet with an Air Force recruiter when the time came.

I offer my deepest admiration and gratitude to Jennifer Krneta for all that she has done for A1C Dakota Greenwood and all that Jennifer continues to do for the foster children of Southern Illinois. I hope that she continues to make life better for these children for many years to come.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on March 28, 2017, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on H. Res. 229, the rule providing for consideration of the Honest and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act of 2017 (H.R. 1430). Had I been present for roll call No. 198, I would have voted "NAY."

RECOGNIZING EDWARDSVILLE  
HIGH SCHOOL'S SENIOR GUARD  
MARK SMITH

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edwardsville High School's senior guard Mark Smith, who is now

better known as Mr. Basketball of Illinois for the 2016–2017 season.

Mark received the Mr. Basketball honor after a senior season in which he filled up the stats sheet. Over the course of the season, Mark averaged 21.9 points, 8.2 rebounds, 8.4 assists, and 2.1 steals per game. He recorded double figures in 31 of the Tigers' 32 games, and had eight games in which he scored more than 30 points. In the championship game of the Ottawa sectional, Mark scored a career-high 45 points in Edwardsville's win over Danville.

Outside of Mark's individual statistics, the Tigers boys' basketball season was an unforgettable one in the Metro East, as the team finished 30–2 and played in the Class 4A Super-Sectional in Normal.

In addition to the Mr. Basketball honor, Mark was named the "Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year," and has scholarship offers from multiple Division 1 schools.

I am proud to congratulate Mark on his spectacular senior season and receiving this honor. I look forward to continuing to follow his basketball career.

**HOLY SEE ARTICLES**

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues several more articles that I have written over the years regarding the Holy See. As a Member of the Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, these pieces serve to outline and inform discussions that our Committee will cover in the 115th Congress.

**RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY: THE EMERGING  
DIPLOMACY OF POPE BENEDICT XVI**

While many Americans only see him as a spiritual leader of Roman Catholics, the Pope exerts an often subtle but undeniable influence in international affairs. The Pope is the final authority of the Holy See, which derives its name from "seat" in Latin and signifies the repository of authority and direction over the organization and affairs of the Church. As an institution and sovereign, the Holy See is the "oldest diplomatic entity in the world."

During the two World Wars, Popes Benedict XV and Pius XII boldly promoted peace without preconditions. The jovial Pope John XXIII and more reserved Pope Paul VI implemented the Vatican II reforms. The unforgettable legacy of John Paul II, the Polish Pope, is his unswerving opposition to communism. The current Pope Benedict XVI, formerly known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, continues the diplomatic tradition of the Holy See aimed at salvaging faith in some parts of the world and promoting reason in others.

While Benedict XVI is often characterized as being less media-centric and charismatic than his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, he demonstrated remarkable strategic focus and clarity in his papal visit to the United Kingdom, September 16–20, 2010. His spirit of goodwill enabled him to overcome vocal and hostile opposition to the visit and, as a result, this visit will likely be remembered as a defining moment for the diplomacy of the Holy See.

In his in-flight press conference, the Pope made it clear that he wasn't willing to compromise or soften his outreach, saying that